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Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 OES-09 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01
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INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 ICA-11
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UNIDO

E.O. 11652:N/A
TAGS: TECH, ENRG, UNIDO, EIND, ETRD
SUBJECT: SOLAR ENERGY POLICY REVIEW

REF: STATE 14584O

1. IN CONNECTION WITH PRESIDENT'S GOAL OF "DEVELOPING AN OVERALL SOLAR STRATEGY FOR SPEEDING THE USE OF SOLAR TECHNOLOGIES", MISSION WOULD LIKE TO DRAW THE DEPARTMENT'S ATTENTION TO RECENT ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELD BY THE UN INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION (UNIDO) WHICH HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE GOAL AND TO CREATE EXPORT, LICENSING, AND INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR U.S. FIRMS.

2. FOR THE LAST YEAR AN INTERNAL UNIDO TASK FORCE ON ENERGY PROBLEMS HAS BEEN CONSIDERING AN ACTION PROGRAM FOR UNIDO TO ASSIST THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN PLANNING THEIR ENERGY POLICIES AS THEY RELATE TO INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT. THE PRELIMINARY REPORT OF THIS TASK FORCE INDICATES THAT UNIDO WILL FOCUS ITS EFFORTS IN, FIRST, ADVISING DEVELOP-
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ING COUNTRIES ON NATIONAL ENERGY POLICIES SO THAT ENERGY PROBLEMS WILL BE INTEGRATED APPROPRIATELY INTO NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT PLANNING; AND, SECOND, IN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS DESIGNED TO MEET SPECIFIC ENERGY NEEDS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES -- PARTICULARLY, IN THE AREA OF DEVELOPING NON-CONVENTIONAL SOURCES OF ENERGY AND MAKING THEM COMMERCIALLY FEASIBLE. SOLAR ENERGY'S POTENTIAL HAS

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PROMINENT MENTION IN THE REPORT.

3. IN MID-JULY, UNIDO ISSUED A PUBLICATION ENTITLED "TECHNOLOGY FOR SOLAR ENERGY UTILIZATION", WHICH DISCUSSES THE EXPLOITATION OF SOLAR ENERGY TECHNOLOGY FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. THE BOOK CONSISTS OF THREE PARTS: THE FIRST DEALS WITH THE UTILIZATION OF SOLAR ENERGY IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES; THE SECOND CONTAINS SUMMARIES OF COUNTRY AND INSTITUTIONAL PROGRAMS ON SOLAR ENERGY; AND THE THIRD IS A SELECTION OF TECHNICAL PAPERS ON THE CONVERSION OF SOLAR ENERGY INTO MECHANICAL AND ELECTRICAL ENERGY, THE DESIGN OF COLLECTORS, UTILIZATION OF SOLAR ENERGY IN HEATING, COOLING, DISTILLATION, ETC.

4. TO DATE UNIDO'S ENERGY-RELATED ACTIVITIES HAVE BEEN LARGELY RESTRICTED TO SPECIFIC TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROJECTS. THE TASK FORCE PRELIMINARY REPORT, HOWEVER, ENVISAGES THE ESTABLISHMENT WITHIN THE UNIDO SECRETARIAT OF AN ENERGY UNIT. THIS ENERGY UNIT WOULD BE CHARGED WITH IDENTIFYING OUTSIDE EXPERTISE FOR UNIDO RESEARCH AND OPERATIONAL PROJECTS; COORDINATING UNIDO'S ACTIVITIES WITH SUCH OTHER UN BODIES AS THE CENTER ON NATURAL RESOURCES, ENERGY AND TRANSPORT; MAINTAINING LINKS WITH GOVERNMENTAL, SCIENTIFIC AND PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS DEALING WITH ENERGY, AND EXECUTING SUCH SPECIFIC PROJECTS AS ADVISORY MISSIONS ON ENERGY PLANNING AND ENERGY WORKSHOPS OR CON-
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FERENCES.

5. THE UNIDO SECRETARIAT ARGUES THAT, DUE TO UNIDO'S COORDINATING RESPONSIBILITIES IN REGARD TO INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES IN THE UN SYSTEM, THE ORGANIZATION SHOULD PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN UN ACTIVITIES IN THE ENERGY FIELD. MISSION EXPECTS THE SECRETARIAT TO PURSUE THIS INTEREST AGGRESSIVELY AND TO BECOME INCREASINGLY INVOLVED IN THE ENERGY-RELATED ASPECTS OF INDUSTRIALIZATION. GIVEN THE EMPHASIS IN THE SECRETARIAT'S WORK TO DATE ON THE PARTICULAR APPLICABILITY OF SOLAR ENERGY TECHNOLOGY TO THE NEEDS OF THE LDC'S, UNIDO'S FUTURE ACTIVITIES SEEM LIKELY TO CONTRIBUTE TO FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF SOLAR ENERGY USE AND, IN TURN, TO THE CREATION OF ADDITIONAL MARKETS FOR U.S. EXPORTS OF EQUIPMENT AS WELL AS LICENSING AND INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR U.S. FIRMS. THESE ACTIVITIES WILL THUS BEAR WATCHING.

6. COPIES OF THE TASK FORCE REPORT AND OF THE PUBLICATION,"TECHNOLOGY FOR SOLAR ENERGY UTILIZATION",HAVE BEEN POUCHED TO IO/DHP. MISSION WILL OBTAIN ADDITIONAL COPIES OF THE PUBLICATION UPON REQUEST. LEARY

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